

Application Serial No: 10/562,319  
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: August 9, 2007

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**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the following at page 20, line 22-page 21, line 2 of the specification:

In contrast, the use of hardness values of tissues converted by the hardness value conversion unit 11 as in the present embodiment allows point E1 corresponding to point R1 at the boundary position between the posterior wall 23b and the blood flow region 22 to show a much higher peak value than that of point E2 corresponding to R2 disposed in the atheroma 24, which is free from the influence of the echo brightness as shown in the waveform of Portion (b) of Fig. 9. Thus, the maximum peak value at point E1 corresponding to the boundary position between the ~~blood vessel posterior wall 23b~~ 103 and the blood flow region 22 and the second peak value at point E3 corresponding to R3 indicating the position of the middle membrane 49 can be detected accurately and securely.